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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/037,940	01/04/2002	Tatsuo Nomura	70904/56,872	7762
21874	7590	08/07/2007	EXAMINER	
EDWARDS ANGELL PALMER & DODGE LLP			BURLESON, MICHAEL L	
P.O. BOX 55874			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
BOSTON, MA 02205			2625	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/07/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/037,940	NOMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael Burleson	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 May 2007.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 5-27 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 5-27 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

 | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see pages 2-7, filed 05/21/2007, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 5-27 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Colbert et al. US 5699494.
2. With respect to claims 5,10,19,20 and 26, Applicant states that Nomura fails to teach that the printer interface changes it's display stat or its ability to accept inputs in response to user input at the other scanner interface. Examiner agrees with Applicant. Colbert et al. teaches of bidirectional communication between host and printer with access to replica, which mirrors the display state of the printer or host (column 6,lines 44-67 and column 7,lines 20-24). When a command or state is display on either apparatus, the other mirrors the command or state, thus changing the state of the other apparatus.
3. With respect to 19, Applicant states that Nomura fails to teach that the display section is invisible to the user. Examiner disagrees with Applicant. The way that the scanner/printer combination is arranged, it appears to be invisible for a user to locate the display (see fig 15). Also, Examiner fails to see the importance or usefulness of the display of the printer unit to be invisible to the user.
4. Claims 5-27 are rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 5-27 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nomura et al. US 7173724 in view of Colbert et al. US 5699494.

3. Regarding claim 5, Nomura teaches of an image processing apparatus, comprising: a printer unit equipped with a user interface section having a first display section and a scanner unit equipped with a user interface having a second display section (column 6,lines 27-30;fig 2; column 9,lines 24-33;column 10,lines 22-24).

4. Nomura fails to teach of wherein said user interface section of said printer unit and said user interface section of said scanner unit are arranged such that in response to a command entered by one of these user interface sections, the other user interface section changes its display state.

5. Colbert teaches wherein said user interface section of said printer unit and said user interface section of said scanner unit are arranged such that in response to a command entered by one of these user interface sections, the other user interface section changes its display state (column 6,lines 44-67).

6. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify Nomura et al. wherein Nomura et al.'s method is

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applied to changing the display state of the printer. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify Nomura et al. by the teaching of Colbert et al. in order to replicate the operator panel of an imaging device for bidirectional communication.

7. Regarding claim 6, Nomura teaches said user interface section of said printer unit and said user interface section of said scanner unit are arranged such that when either one of these user interface sections displays information regarding a processing of image data, the other user interface section is in non-display state (column 10,lines 29-33).

8. Regarding claim 7, Colbert teaches said user interface section of said scanner unit is used in displaying information regarding a processing of image data and entering commands regarding the processing of image data, for both said printer unit and said scanner unit (column 6,lines 44-50).

9. Regarding claim 8, Colbert teaches in response to a command entered by said user interface section of said scanner unit, said user interface section of said printer unit changes its display state (column 6,lines 52-59)

10. Regarding claim 9, Colbert teaches when a command to execute a processing to be performed by said printer unit is entered by said user interface section of said scanner unit, said user interface section of said printer unit displays information regarding contents of the command (column 6,lines 52-59).

11. Regarding claim 10, Nomura teaches an image processing apparatus, comprising: an independently operable scanner unit equipped with a display section and

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a display control section; an independently operable printer unit equipped with a display section and a display control section, wherein said scanner unit and said printer unit are provided as separate members and said display control sections of said scanner unit and said printer unit cooperatively control said display sections of said scanner unit and said printer unit such that: in an independent use of said printer unit, said display section of said printer unit is set to be effective (column 6,lines 27-30;fig 2;columnne 9,lines 24-33;column 10,lines 22-24).

12. Nomura fails to teach in a combined use of said printer unit and said scanner unit, said display section of said printer unit is set to be effective if a predetermined condition is satisfied, and if not, only said display section of said scanner unit is set to be effective in displaying information regarding the combined use of said printer unit and said scanner unit.

13. Colbert teaches in a combined use of said printer unit and said scanner unit, said display section of said printer unit is set to be effective if a predetermined condition is satisfied, and if not, only said display section of said scanner unit is set to be effective in displaying information regarding the combined use of said printer unit and said scanner unit (column 6,lines 44-67).

14. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify Nomura et al. wherein Nomura et al.'s method is applied to changing the display state of the printer. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify Nomura et al.

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by the teaching of Colbert et al. in order to replicate the operator panel of an imaging device for bidirectional communication.

15. Regarding claim 11, Nomura teaches said display section of said scanner unit is a large size display unit capable of displaying graphics (column 10,lines 20-25)

16. Regarding claim 12, Nomura discloses said printer unit includes a shielding member for shielding said display section to be invisible by a user when said display control section controls said display section of said printer unit to be ineffective (fig 2)

17. Regarding claim 13, Nomura teaches said predetermined condition is that information to be displayed in said printer unit is different from the information regarding the combined use of said printer unit and said scanner unit (column 10,lines 29-33)

18. Regarding claim 14, Nomura teaches said predetermined condition is that some failure has occurred in said scanner unit or in any other unit to be used in combination with said printer unit, and said display control section controls said display section of said printer unit to display a state of the failure occurred in said scanner unit or in any other unit (column 16,lines 30-33)

19. Regarding claim 15, Nomura teaches an input section for said display section of said scanner unit and an input section for said display section of said printer unit, wherein said display control section of said scanner unit permits an input operation by said input section of said scanner unit when said display section of said scanner unit is effective and said display control section of said printer unit permits an input operation by said input section of said printer unit when said display section of said printer unit is effective (column 15,lines 19-38)

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20. Regarding claim 16, Nomura teaches said predetermined condition is that an input operation is performed by said input section of said printer unit, and said display control section of said printer unit controls said display section of said printer unit to display information regarding said printer unit (column 10,lines 20-24)

21. Regarding claim 17, Nomura teaches said predetermined condition is that a failure has occurred in said scanner unit and said display control section of said printer unit controls said display section of said printer unit to display a state of said scanner unit (column 16,lines 30-33)

22. Regarding claim 18, Nomura teaches said display control section of said printer unit controls said display section of said printer unit to display the state of said scanner unit and the state of said printer unit alternately (column 16,lines 34-45)

23. Regarding claim 19, Nomura teaches an image processing apparatus, comprising: an independently operable scanner unit equipped with a display section; an independently operable printer unit equipped with a display section, wherein said scanner unit and said printer unit are provided as separate members, said display section of said scanner unit is a large size display unit capable of displaying graphics, said display section being provided on a front surface side of said scanner unit; said display section of said printer unit is provided on an upper surface on a back surface side of said printer unit; and in a combined use of said printer unit and said scanner unit, said scanner unit is provided above said printer unit, and said display section of said printer unit is invisible by a user (column 6,lines 27-30;fig 2; column 9,lines 24-33;column 10,lines 22-24).

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24. Regarding claim 20, Nomura teaches an image processing section for carrying out a processing of image data; and a plurality of user interface sections for displaying information regarding said processing of image data and for entering inputs on said processing of image data, (column 6,lines27-30; fig 2; column 9,lines 24-33;column 10,lines 22-24;column 14,lines 52-67)

25. Nomura fails to teach wherein said plurality of user interface sections are arranged such that in response to an operation input entered by a specific user interface section, other user interface section (s) than said specific user interface section change (s) its (their) input acceptance state (s)

26. Colbert teaches wherein said plurality of user interface sections are arranged such that in response to an operation input entered by a specific user interface section, other user interface section (s) than said specific user interface section change (s) its (their) input acceptance state (s) (column 6,lines 44-67).

27. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify Nomura et al. wherein Nomura et al.'s method is applied to changing the display state of the printer. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify Nomura et al. by the teaching of Colbert et al. in order to replicate the operator panel of an imaging device for bidirectional communication.

28. Regarding claim 21, Nomura teaches said plurality of user interface sections are arranged such that input acceptance of said other user interface section(s) than the

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specific user interface section is validated in response to the operation input entered by said specific user interface section (column 14,lines 51-67)

29. Regarding claim 22, Nomura teaches said plurality of user interface sections are arranged such that in response to the operation input entered by said specific user interface section, an input entering right allowing for acceptance of the operation input is transferred from the specific user interface section to said other user interface section than the specific user interface section (column 14,lines 51-67 – column 15,lines 1-10)

30. Regarding claim 23, Nomura teaches said plurality of user interface sections are arranged such that in response to operation input(s) entered by said other user interface section than the specific user interface section, the input entering right is transferred back to the specific user interface section (column 14,lines 52-67)

31. Regarding claim 24, Nomura teaches said plurality of user interface sections are arranged such that in response to the operation input entered by said specific user interface section, input acceptance of said other user interface section than the specific user interface section is validated and input acceptance of the specific user interface section is invalidated (column 14,lines 52-67)

32. Regarding claim 25, Nomura teaches wherein: said plurality of user interface sections are arranged such that while changing the input acceptance state of said other user interface section than the specific user interface section a, a display state of at least one user interface section is changed (column 14,lines 52-67)

33. Regarding claim 26, Nomura teaches an image processing apparatus, comprising: a first image processing section for carrying out a processing of image data

including a first display section; at least one second image processing section for carrying out a processing of image data, including at least one second display section and a plurality of user interface sections corresponding to the first display section and the at least one second display section for entering commands on said processing of image data (column 6,lines 27-30;fig 2;column 9,lines 24-33;column 10,lines 22-24)

34. Nomura fails to teach wherein said first and second display sections are arranged such that in response to a command entered at the user interface section corresponding to the first display section, a display state of the second display section is changed

35. Colbert teaches wherein said first and second display sections are arranged such that in response to a command entered at the user interface section corresponding to the first display section, a display state of the second display section is changed (column 6,lines 44-67).

36. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify Nomura et al. wherein Nomura et al.'s method is applied to changing the display state of the printer. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify Nomura et al. by the teaching of Colbert et al. in order to replicate the operator panel of an imaging device for bidirectional communication.

37. Regarding claim 27, Nomura teaches wherein in response to the command entered at the user interface section corresponding to the first display section the

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display stat of the second display section is changed to a non-display state (column 10,lines 29-33)

Conclusion

1. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Burleson whose telephone number is 571-272-7460. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twlyer Lamb can be reached on 571-272-7404.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER

Michael Burleson

Patent Examiner



August 6, 2007